

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 EA-06 IO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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SCA-01 SCS-01 DPW-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /056 W

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O R 290619Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4913

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 5029

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, VS

SUBJ: TWO ADDITIONAL AMERICANS REACH VIENTIANE FROM SAIGON

REF: VIENTIANE 5010

1. ALEXANDRE CASELLA OF UNHCR CALLED ON POLITICAL COUNSELOR
JULY 29 TO CONVEY A NUMBER OF POINTS:

2. TWO AMERICANS CAME OUT OF SAIGON ON UNHCR/RAL FLIGHT
(CARAVELLE) JULY 28: EARL MARTIN OF MENNONITE ORGANIZATION
AND SOPHIE QUAINN-JUDGE, AFSC. LATTER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HER
HUSBAND, A BRITISH SUBJECT. (NEITHER OF THE AMERICANS HAS
SO FAR BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US.)

3. ALSO ON JULY 28 FLIGHT WERE A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF
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FRENCH NATIONALS AND A MIXED BAG OF OTHER NATIONALITIES,

INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE EACH OF FOLLOWING: INDONESIAN, ITALIAN, FILIPINO, AUSTRALIAN.

4. TWO VIETNAMESE SEAMEN WHO HAD COME TO VIENTIANE FROM BANGKOK (VIENTIANE 4873, PARA 8) AND WERE PROCESSED HERE BY BOTH UNHCR AND DRV EMBASSY WENT TO SAIGON ON THE JULY 24 FLIGHT, ALONG WITH WILFRED BURCHETT (REF-TEL). THEY ARE EVIDENTLY THE FIRST ORDINARY REPATRIATES ACCEPTED BY PRG, AS OPPOSED TO DIPLOMATS WHO WERE ALLOWED BACK AT BEGINNING OF JULY.

5. UNHCR NOW HAS PERMISSION TO MAKE FLIGHTS EACH MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY THROUGH END OF AUGUST AND INTENDS TO DO SO. APART FROM ANY NEW POLITICAL FACTORS THAT MAY ARISE, WEATHER COULD ALWAYS CAUSE DISRUPTION, BUT CASELLA HOPES THIS SCHEDULE CAN BE ADHERED TO.

6. FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED TENTATIVE PERMISSION (STILL TO BE RATIFIED BY HANOI) FOR A SERIES OF FLIGHTS OF ITS OWN, TO EXPEDITE DEPARTURE OF MANY FRENCH NATIONALS WHO NOW WISH TO LEAVE SVN. FRENCH PLAN TO USE SAME RAL CARAVELLE ON DAYS WHEN UNHCR IS NOT USING IT BUT WILL PROBABLY OPERATE OUT OF BANGKOK. CASELLA IS ANXIOUS TO PRESERVE DISTINCTION BETWEEN UNHCR AND FRENCH FLIGHTS, AND UNHCR WILL TAKE NO PART IN NEGOTIATING WITH RTG FOR FRENCH USE OF BANGKOK; UNHCR HAS TOO MANY OTHER MATTERS UNDER NEGOTIATION WITH RTG AT PRESENT, PRINCIPALLY PROGRAM FOR REFUGEES FROM LAOS AND CAMBODIA, AND CASELLA NOTES THAT THAI ARE PAST-MASTERS AT OFFERING CONCESSIONS ON PERIPHERAL ISSUES IN ORDER TO GAIN ADVANTAGE ON CENTRAL ISSUES. HE SPECULATES ALSO THAT PERMISSION FOR FRENCH FLIGHTS MAY RESULT FROM GOF PLEDGES OF AID TO PRG AND/OR DRV.

CHAPMAN

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